



# **SDG Conclave 2020**

Partnerships, Cooperation  
and Development of  
North Eastern States

24-26 February, 2020

Assam Administrative Staff College

Guwahati, Assam

INDIA

# SDG Conclave 2020: Partnerships, Cooperation and Development of North Eastern States

## The Context

The North East region of India is one of the biodiversity hotspots of the world where the flora and fauna as well as the cultures of South, South East and Far East Asia melt and mingle. In the pre-colonial era the fertile river valleys and the lower Himalayan ranges were the homes of more than two hundred distinct indigenous peoples speaking languages belonging to three families of languages (Sino-Tibetan, Austro-Asiatic and Indo-Aryan) ranging from a population of a few hundreds to a few hundred thousands. The region forms the crucial land bridge for the Act East Policy of the Government of India to integrate its economy with the fast growing economies of South East Asia. Therefore, there is considerable attention in terms of infrastructure development and connectivity. Further, the constitution of the NITI Forum for the North East under the co-chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and Union Minister of State (I/C) DoNER, with the North East Council, all 8 States, and representatives from academia, research institutes and experts, aids and accelerates the focused and collaborative drive to identify constraints in accelerated, inclusive and sustainable socio-economic growth in the Northeast Region, while recommending suitable interventions for addressing these constraints. All these efforts converge to accelerate the collective drive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the region.

## Northeast States in Achieving SDGs

The North Eastern Region (NER), comprising Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, is one of the most diverse geographic and socio-economic regions of India. Connected by a narrow 22 km corridor in Assam, this region is of significant strategic importance, especially with each state sharing an international border with at least one of the five eastern neighbours of the country. The region is one of the biodiversity hotspots in the world and is substantially endowed with multifarious natural resources. The NER is home to approximately 225 of India's tribes, whose culture and customs provide important clues for biodiversity conservation and management. The ethnic, religious, linguistic and cultural richness of the region contributes to the socio-cultural wealth of Indian society.

The NER witnessed political exigencies emanating from diversity in ethnicity, culture and levels of underdevelopment. The states in the region depend significantly on the Central Government for financial assistance, especially Plan assistance, which continues to be given on a 90:10 basis, i.e. 90 per cent is central assistance while the States themselves raise 10 per cent of the budget. Key challenges for the region can be categorized as follows:

- The region is yet to leverage India's position -as a fast-growing emerging economy and market, for development
- Overall poor infrastructure development impeding development

- Low Population Density -119 per sq.km (UP 828, Punjab 554, Bihar 1102)
- Lack of employment opportunities
- High operational cost
- Subsistence farming - Organized groups and strategies to achieve economies of scale through collective production and marketing missing
- Ecological fragility made worse by persistent environmental degradation - destruction of tropical rainforest, drying of wetlands, shrinkage of biodiversity cover, soil erosion and air and water pollution
- State governments are financially strapped, falls under special category

The region is endowed with a vibrant human resource base, varied topography and agro-climatic conditions which offer vast potential for agriculture, horticulture and forestry. It also shares international boundaries with several neighbouring countries due to which it is increasingly gaining significant strategic value. With ASEAN engagement becoming a central pillar of India's foreign policy, these states play an important role as the physical and cultural bridge between India and East Asian countries.

Hence, it is imperative to strengthen partnerships across Central Government, State Government, Corporates, Civil Societies and neighbouring countries to ensure SDG targets as envisaged by UN and NITI Aayog are achieved in states of Northeast India, enabling the region to catch up with better performing states.

## The North East - SDG Conclave

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are now being used as the overarching framework for development discourse, planning and action all over the world and India has the satisfaction of being the harbinger of adoption and implementation process of this framework - having championed critical social, economic and environmental parameters.

The North Eastern Region is one of the most demographically diverse regions in the country. The socio-cultural diversity gives rise to multiple identities and world views. Such multiplicity is very challenging, particularly, by virtue of increasing the risks of various kinds of exclusions. On the contrary, it also provides enormous opportunities to learn and strengthen mutual support among diverse communities towards achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Northeast -SDG Conclave 2020 which focuses on "Partnerships, Cooperation and Development of North-Eastern States" will be held in Assam from 24-26 February 2020 at the Assam Administrative Staff College (AASC), Guwahati bringing together all the stakeholders in the region with the goal of identifying solutions as well as accelerators in the implementation of SDGs.

## Objectives

- 1) Determining the key factors which can help multiply progress on SDGs on a par with **better performing States**.
- 2) **Identifying factors within the region causing continuing deprivations** amongst certain groups and communities including women and how to resolve them.
- 3) **Strengthening partnership between Centre** (including Central PSUs) and states in furthering the SDGs, with particular emphasis on strengthening impact of centrally sponsored schemes and projects, involvement of Central PSUs in states' efforts and in knowledge and capacity building support.
- 4) **Strengthening partnership with the private sector**, with special emphasis on encouraging the private sector initiatives already on the ground to contribute to SDG implementation; expanding projects supported by Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds on SDG achievement in the Northeast; and infusion of innovation and new technology.
- 5) **Strengthening partnerships at local level with Panchayati Raj Institutions** (PRIs), Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and civil society, coordinated through districts to achieve the SDGs.

## Conclave Theme & Sessions

The conclave which is being organised under the umbrella theme of Government of India, "Ek Bharat, Shresth Bharat" (One India, Great India) plans to achieve inclusive development focusing on thematic areas viz. economic growth, connectivity, social & human development, which are aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### Inaugural Session (5 PM to 7 PM on 24 February 2020)

The objective of the opening session is to set the context of the Conclave in terms of progress on SDGs in the country and in the North Eastern Region. It will provide important insights into the SDG intervention agenda being taken forward at the national level as well as in the States concerned. This will help weave out the contours of the subsequent discussions and enhance awareness and understanding of the key challenges, gaps and opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region. The Session will also provide foundational inputs on a possible North Eastern Regional Road Map for implementing and achieving the SDGs.

### Cultural Evening (7 PM onwards on 24 February 2020 at Hotel Vivanta, Guwahati)

## Technical Session 1:

### **SDGs in the North Eastern Region: Pathways for Localisation and Achievement** (10:00 – 11:30, 25 February 2020)

#### Context:

Localisation of SDGs is at the heart of successful implementation. It is the process of understanding, adaptation, planning, implementing and monitoring the SDGs from subnational to local levels by relevant institutions. Therefore, it begins by defining the national/subnational context of the 2030 agenda, and moving forward to setting goals and targets at national and subnational contexts, working out indicators and monitoring framework from subnational to local levels and identifying/establishing the means and structures of implementation. In terms of engagement and collaboration of institutions, it would be consequential how the Union, State and Local Governments work together to achieve the SDGs at the national level, and how SDGs can provide a framework for subnational and local policy, planning and action for realization of SDG targets at local levels.

#### Trajectory:

Against the backdrop of the existing reality of SDG localisation in the country, efforts and achievements of each North Eastern State will be set forth. Experiences and initiatives around aspects like promoting the 'whole-of-government' approach, preparation of vision document and roadmap, administrative structures for integration and convergence, State Indicators Framework, etc. will be brought up and discussed. Specific issues including those of capacity building and collaboration are also expected to be deliberated upon. Deliberations in the session may also throw light on implementation of specific SDGs as appropriate to the States, which can be dealt with in more elaborate details in ensuing sessions. The Session will conclude with a shared perspective of future course of action with respect to achieving SDGs and associated targets in the context of development priorities of the North Eastern region.

## Technical Session 2:

### Drivers of Economic Prosperity & Sustainable Livelihoods

(11:45 – 13:15, 25 February 2020)

#### Context:

Accounting for only 2.7% of India's GDP, the NER supports 3.78% of the country's population. A weaker tax base and deteriorating public debt situation put some constraints on its economy. The region has a diverse agricultural production base, which has tremendous potential for the domestic as well as the export market. But it is also burdened with low level of workers' participation and high rural unemployment. Entrepreneurship potentials have dampened in recent years with the Ease of Doing Business seeing a decline. Industrial growth is sluggish, but, the service sector (IT and ITES, tourism, education, etc.) has potentials to grow. A large information gap undermines industrial growth prospects as only fragmented evidence is available through secondary databases like the ASI, Prowess, Indian economy statistics of RBI, DGCIS, Comtrade, etc. On the other hand, the region is better placed in terms of MSME clusters, especially for handicrafts, textiles, leather, jewelry, woodwork and other artisanal crafts. With the NER States producing a wide range of products, there are opportunities for developing economies of scale and improve exports, which are dominated by intermediate and semi-finished products. With strong natural resource endowments and strategic locations on the long land borders with Bangladesh, China, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan, the NER presents unique opportunities for developing growth corridors to link with rest of South Asia and Southeast Asia.

#### Trajectory:

Across the canvass of relevant policies, strategies and programmes, problems and issues would be highlighted along with variations in different North Eastern States. Experiences of various diverse vulnerable communities from the States will be articulated. Roles and initiatives of stakeholders, such as, the government, financial institutions, regional trade chambers, private sector and civil society organisations (CSOs) will be discussed. Good practice cases will be presented and discussed in order to improve strategies within States and among States. Ways to address trade-off between economic growth and prosperity on the one hand and environmental sustainability will be deliberated on.



### Technical Session 3:

#### **Climate Adaptive Agriculture** (14:00 - 15:30, 25 February 2020)

##### Context:

On account of its fragile ecology and skewed rainfall pattern, the NER risks severe climate change impacts on the agriculture sector with adverse consequences for food and nutrition, soil and water management and livelihood security of people. Anticipated impacts include melting of glaciers, more widespread floods and extended droughts. There can be no more doubt that precipitation and temperature patterns are changing. The climate forecasts indicate that these trends will be exacerbated in the future. Average temperatures are projected to increase by about 1.7°C in almost all the districts of the region. The rainfall is projected to increase in most of the districts. It makes the matter worse that the region's natural resources are under enormous pressure due to increase in population and rising economic growth. Non-availability of scientific data remains an unresolved challenge, leading to sub-optimal assessment and management of vulnerability and risks.

##### Trajectory:

The session will bring out the challenges of the environmental impact of high-external-input-driven agriculture and sustained agricultural productivity. Experiences of modelling/piloting climate-adaptive agriculture will be analysed with a view to appraising their wider adaptability or replicability in the region. Synergy between the objectives of increased agricultural productivity and those of climate-adaptive agriculture will be a focus area with respect to producing adequate and nutrition-promoting food crops. Issues of climate-adaptive agriculture have special significance for the North Eastern Region in view of the highly bio-diverse and fragile ecosystem. From this point of view, indigenous knowledge base and traditional agricultural practices assume importance and it is useful to juxtapose them with current systems and practices for comparative analysis and lesson learning. Prospects of knowledge development, capacity building and institutional partnerships will also be assessed in order to explore actionable possibilities.

### Technical Session 4:

#### **Nutrition Security & Health and Wellbeing for All** (15:45 - 17:15, 25 February 2020)

##### Context:

While malnutrition among under-5 children as well as pregnant and lactating women reduced across the NER during the ten-year period since 2005-6, there is considerable ground to cover in terms of meeting the target of ending all forms of malnutrition. Prevalence of anaemia, amongst children aged 6 to 59 months and pregnant women aged 15 to 49 years, was significantly lower in the NER than the national averages of 58.6% and 50.4%, respectively.



Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) account for 58.8 per cent of total deaths while the proportion of deaths due to Communicable Diseases is more than the national average of 27.5 per cent. In terms of specific causes of mortality, the NER has a higher-than-national average in diarrheal diseases, strokes, lower-respiratory diseases, tuberculosis, pre-term birth complications, rheumatic heart diseases and hepatitis. The incidence of malaria and dengue in the region draws attention to the need of more effective vector control. Cancer incidence rates are double the national average with the highest incidence in Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. HIV/AIDS remains a challenge, especially in terms of new infections, infection among substance users and issues pertaining to continuous availability of anti-retroviral medication.

## Trajectory:

The session will broadly purvey the health situation in the region and the issues faced by various vulnerable groups, such as, women and children, Scheduled Tribes/Castes, people living with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS. Major areas of health policies and programmes will be analysed and issues highlighted for remedial measures. Access to health protection as well as effective health care services will be discussed. The session will look into serious problems that the region suffers from in the health delivery system – lack of adequate and trained health personnel, difficulty in accessing services due to geographical remoteness/isolation, problems in the health governance system, etc. It will also deal with high incidence of diseases like malaria, cancer, HIV/AIDS. The other major axis of the session will relate to issues of attaining adequate nutrition status by various vulnerable population groups and intervention strategies with respect to that. Attention will be given to dynamics of food distribution, access and quality assurance. In exploring solutions and ways out, opportunities for collaboration and partnership between States and other relevant stakeholders will be explored.

## Technical Session 5:

### **Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** (10:00 – 11:30, 26 February 2020)

## Context:

At 74.6 per cent, the overall literacy rate in the NER was slightly higher than the national average in 2011. Matters of concern include a large proportion of schools being single-teacher, absence of toilets for girls, high dropout rates and low enrolment in secondary education. Despite addition of new central universities and institutions, the number of colleges per thousand population (18-23 years) remains much below the national average. Additionally, the low share of diploma courses in most of the states of the NER is a matter of special concern in terms of skilling and employment. Despite a significant impetus in skill development programmes, translation of Vocational Education and Training (VET) into economic opportunities has been a challenge for those undertaking the courses. Substantive private sector engagement in fostering skill development, entrepreneurship and employment may be an important complement to the existing government interventions in the region.

## Trajectory:

The whole gamut of issues faced in the continuum from education to decent work will be covered. Relevant policies, programmes/schemes and their implementation will be discussed in an outcome-oriented perspective. While existing problems such as those of education of girls and SC/ST population, high incidence of dropout, low enrolment, teachers' absenteeism, habitation without schooling facilities, quality issues, etc. will be looked into, issues around vocational education, skill development, entrepreneurship development and creation of well-paying jobs will have substantial attention. Uneven access to opportunities across various social/population groups will also attract remedial thinking. Like other sessions, learning from good practices and exploring replicability will be a continuous thread to be pursued throughout the session.

## Technical Session 6:

### **Communication, Connectivity and Infrastructure Development (11:45 – 13:15, 26 February 2020)**

The total length of national highways (NH) in NER was 13,082 kms as of 2016-17 with a 4600 kms addition in the previous six years. Unlike the total road length (inclusive of all types of roads) the regional NH network is relatively evenly distributed across the region. Besides NH, the network of state highways in NER has improved considerably over the years. The total length of railways in the NER was 2662 kms as of 2016-17, with 91.8 per cent being in Assam. The total navigable length of main rivers in the NER is 3839 kms and therefore, inland waterways are a promising alternative for transport of people and cargo. Passenger and cargo traffic for several NER states has significantly increased between 2015 and 2018. New airports are also being built across the States. However, there are several challenges that precipitate unwanted delay and congestion in surface transport. An integrated transport corridor approach is suitable for releasing traffic on those routes and enables faster movement of cargo.

Reliable and high-speed internet connectivity is also critical for supporting the entrepreneurship ecosystem emerging in different parts of the country including in the NER, particularly for design, development and user interface of e-commerce platforms and multimedia services. Some of the states in NER are rightly poised to leverage technology driven entrepreneurship and digital platforms to support retail, trade and tourism sectors critical to the region and hence promote livelihood opportunities. It may be noted that Tripura is the country's third international internet gateway after Mumbai and Chennai (through Cox Bazaar-Bangladesh.). Full serviceability of this gateway would be critical for promoting economy and development in the entire NER by bringing down service costs. The NER has also registered significantly higher growth in mobile and wireline connectivity. As per 2019 statistics, mobile tele-density in the NER stands at 82.5% which is below the national average of 88.41%. However, aggregate internet penetration in NER is significantly higher than the national average. Similarly, the broadband penetration in NER is higher than the national level.

Considering unique geographical situation and strategic location on long international border, connectivity and communication in the NER is a very critical issue. There is a need for quick and integrated growth in all the interrelated sectors.

## Trajectory:

Communication, infrastructure and connectivity are the key arteries of the development process and more so in the current times. One of the focus areas will be physical as well as digital infrastructure development, which have been areas of concern in the region. Existing programmes will be analysed and new opportunities, such as, in-land waterways discussed. Current communication management system will be analysed to identify scope for innovations and new initiatives. Scope of accessing and using new technologies related to internet of things, big data, Artificial Intelligence, etc. will be explored. The session will also deal with ways and means of seeking help from various technology partners as well as institutional investors for providing resource support for transforming the infrastructural landscape of the region.

## Technical Session 7:

### **Addressing Inequality and Exclusion in the North East** (14:00 – 15:30, 26 February 2020)

## Context:

The NER presents a unique socio-cultural mosaic consisting of diverse tribal communities, and linguistic and ethnic identities. These identities often overlap and even transcend social as well as geographic boundaries. Many communities in the region suffer from multiple vulnerabilities. As reflected in other thematic sessions, the region posts sluggish progress on a number of development parameters, which also adversely impacts the situation of vulnerable communities.

The Constitution of India provides several protective provisions for the region. The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution bestows special status upon the traditional institutions and provides for local self-governance in autonomous district councils. Development programmes and processes have represented the major stream of efforts to integrate and assimilate various vulnerable communities in the mainstream of progress and address concerns of exclusion and isolation. However, issues of unequal distribution of resources as well as a sense of exclusion among various communities have arisen from time to time. Emergence of educated elites, students and mobilised youth, active civil society and market forces has also given rise to new processes of change and wider aspirations for better opportunities as well as anxiety about possible discrimination and exclusion.

## Trajectory:

The more the diversity, the more the attention riveted on the core SDG principle of 'Leave No One Behind'. This is emphatically true of the North Eastern Region. The session will bring together various initiatives fructifying the principle and working among different communities at risk for exclusion. Attempt is made to cover all the States. Participants in the session will include government officials, CSOs, social activists, academics as well as media people. Major initiatives creating impact on various excluded or marginalised communities will be discussed in the session. Availability of reliable data is a long-standing problem in this area, where possible innovations will also be considered.

## Final Session:

### **Way Forward and Valedictory** (15:45 – 17:00, 26 February 2020)

In the culminating session, a summing-up of all the technical sessions will be done to facilitate reflection on the ways forward. All the States will be represented in the panel to deliberate on the paths forward as far as implementing and achieving the SDGs is concerned. Ways for convergence and collaboration of all the stakeholders would be explored for joining of forces and making greater impact. The session will end with shared perspective of taking collaborative steps towards improving innovation, cooperation and partnerships for sustainable development.

As part of preparation, discussions will be held for States to develop their road map on SDGs, which can be discussed, inputted and finalized in course of the Conclave to constitute the way forward.

# The Programme

**Venue:** Assam Administrative Staff College (AASC), Guwahati

**Day 1:** 24 February 2020

Time (Hrs)	Session
16:30-17:00	<b>Registration</b>
<b>17:00-19:00</b>	<b>Inaugural Session</b>
17:00-17:05 (5 min)	Introduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog</li></ul>
17:05-17:10 (5 min)	Welcome Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, Minister, Finance, Transformation &amp; Development, Education &amp; Health, Government of Assam</li><li>• Ceremonial lighting of Lamp, Offering Gamcha</li></ul>
Time (Hrs)	Session
17:10-17:20 (10 min)	Opening Remarks and Setting the Context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog</li></ul>
17:20-17:30 (10 min)	Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. Renata Lok-Dessallien, UN Resident Coordinator, India</li><li>• Shri Mehrab Irani, Group CFO, Tata Trusts</li></ul>
17:30-18:40 (70 min)	Special Address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh</li><li>• Shri Nongthombam Biren Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur</li><li>• Shri Conrad Kongkal Sangma, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya</li><li>• Shri Zoramthanga, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram</li><li>• Shri Neiphiu Rio, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland</li><li>• Shri Prem Singh Tamang, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim</li><li>• Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura</li><li>• Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam</li></ul>
18:40-18:50 (10 min)	Keynote Address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (IC), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Government of India</li></ul>
18:50-19:00 (10 min)	Vote of Thanks <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog</li></ul>
	Rapporteur: Ms. Arundhati Yadav, UNDP Mr. Anshul Bisen, NITI Aayog

*Cultural Programme followed by dinner at Taj Vivanta*

Time (Hrs)	Session
10:00-11:30 (90 min)	<b>Technical Session 1: SDGs in the North Eastern Region: Pathways for Localisation and Achievement</b>
10:00-10:10 (10 min)	Chair: Dr Inder Jit Singh, Secretary, Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India
10:10-11:15 (65 min)	Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shri Kumar Sanjay Krishna, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam</li> <li>• Shri Naresh Kumar, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh</li> <li>• Dr J. Suresh Babu, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Manipur</li> <li>• Shri M. S. Rao, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya</li> <li>• Shri Lalnunmawia Chuaungo, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Mizoram</li> <li>• Shri Temjen Toy, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Nagaland</li> <li>• Shri S. C. Gupta, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Sikkim</li> <li>• Shri Manoj Kumar, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tripura</li> </ul>
11:15-11:30 (15 min)	Open Discussion and Closing remarks by the Chair Rapporteur: Ms. Mallika Adhikari, UNDP Ms. Aanchal Pal, NITI Aayog
11:30-11:45 (15 min)	Tea/Coffee
11:45-13:15 (90 min)	<b>Technical Session 2: Drivers of Economic Prosperity and Sustainable Livelihoods</b>
11:45-11:55 (10 min)	Chair: Shri Rajiv Bora, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Govt. of Assam
11:55-12:55 (60 min)	Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shri Ajit Pai, OSD, NITI Aayog</li> <li>• Prof. R.M. Pant, Director, NIRD &amp; PR-NERC, Guwahati</li> <li>• Mr. Vanlalruata Fanai, Deputy General Manager, EXIM Bank</li> <li>• Mr. Ishantor Sobhapandit, Regional Director, Indian Chamber of Commerce North East, Guwahati</li> <li>• Prof. Kalyan Das, Director-in-charge, OKD Institute of Social Change and Development</li> <li>• Prof. E. Bijoykumar Singh, Dept. of Economics, Manipur University</li> <li>• Mr. Vijay Yagnamurthy, Zonal Head – East and Northeast, Tata Trusts</li> </ul>
12:55-13:15 (20 min)	Open Discussion and Closing remarks of the Chair Rapporteur: Mr. Anirudh Menon, Tata Trusts Ms. Arundhati Yadav, UNDP
13:15-14:00 (45 min)	Lunch

Time (Hrs)	Session
14:00-15:30 (90 min)	<b>Technical Session 3: Climate Adaptive Agriculture</b>
14:00-14:10 (10 min)	Chair: Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog
14:10-15:10 (60 min)	<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shri Sanjay Kumar Rakesh, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture &amp; Farmers Welfare, Govt. of Tripura</li> <li>• Shri Bidol Taieng, Secretary (Agriculture, Horticulture), Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh</li> <li>• Dr. M. Maheswari, Director, Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad</li> <li>• Dr. Naveen P. Singh, Principal Scientist, ICAR-National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NIAP), New Delhi</li> <li>• Shri Mangsatabam Iboyaima Meitei, Managing Director (i/c), Natural Resources, North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP)</li> <li>• Mr. Tasaduk Ariful Hussain, Chairperson, North East Social Trust</li> <li>• Mr. Netaji Basumatary, Regional Manager, Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS)</li> </ul>
15:10-15:30 (20 min)	<p>Open Discussion and Closing remarks of the Chair</p> <p>Rapporteur: Mr. Amar Chanchal, Tata Trusts Ms. Abilo Humotse, UNDP</p>
15:30-15:45 (15 min)	Tea/Coffee
15:45-17:15 (90 min)	<b>Technical Session 4: Nutrition Security &amp; Health and Wellbeing for all</b>
15:45-15:55 (10 min)	Chair: Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog
15:55-16:55 (60 min)	<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shri Alok Kumar, Adviser, NITI Aayog</li> <li>• Shri. Debasish Basu, Secretary, Health &amp; Family Welfare Department, Government of Tripura</li> <li>• Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Chief Advisor, UNDP India</li> <li>• Dr. Rajan Sankar, Senior Advisor – Nutrition, Tata Trusts</li> <li>• Mr. R. K. Nolinikanta, Community Network for Empowerment (CoNE), Imphal, Manipur</li> <li>• Ms. Ruchira Neog, State Coordinator, VHAI, Assam</li> </ul>
16:55-17:15 (20 min)	<p>Open Discussion and Closing remarks of the Chair</p> <p>Rapporteur: Ms. Zitin Munshi, UNDP Ms. Aanchal Pal, NITI Aayog</p>
17:15-17:30	<p>Sum-up for the Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Manorama Bakshi, Senior Adviser, Policy and Advocacy, Tata Trusts</li> </ul>



**Day 3: 26 February 2020**

<b>Time (Hrs)</b>	<b>Session</b>
<b>10:00-11:30 (90 min)</b>	<b>Technical Session 5: Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship</b>
10:00-10:10 (10 min)	Chair: Shri Rajiv Bora, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Govt. of Assam
10:10-11:10 (60 min)	Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. Sunita Sanghi, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India</li><li>• Shri G.P. Upadhyaya, Additional Chief Secretary, Dept. of HRD, Govt. of Sikkim</li><li>• Ms. Saveri Kulshresth, Head, Pratham-Assam, Guwahati</li><li>• Mr. Satyajit Sailan, Head – Education, Tata Trusts</li><li>• Ms. Jasmina Zeliang, Founder/Proprietor, Cane Concepts, Nagaland</li><li>• Dr. Abhijit Sharma, Director, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati</li><li>• Mr. Jackson Khumukcham, Assistant Professor, MGAHD-TISS Nagaland</li></ul>
11:10-11:30 (20 min)	Open Discussion and Closing remarks of the Chair Rapporteur: Ms. Steffi Itola, Tata Trusts Mr. P. Lotha, UNDP
11:30-11:45 (15 min)	Tea/Coffee
<b>11:45-13:15 (90 min)</b>	<b>Technical Session 6: Communication, Connectivity and Infrastructure Development</b>
11:45-11:55 (10 min)	Chair: Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, New Delhi
11:55-12:55 (60 min)	Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shri H. Harish Hande, CEO, SELCO Foundation</li><li>• Shri Naveen Kumar, Transport Adviser, North Eastern Council, Shillong</li><li>• Shri Mahendra Kumar Yadava, Managing Director, Assam Electronics Development Corporation Ltd.</li><li>• Dr. Shiladitya Chatterjee, Adviser (SDGs), Government of Assam</li><li>• Mr. Sudarshan Rodriguez, Programme Director, Mahatama Gandhi Academy of Human Development, Nagaland</li><li>• Dr. Raile R. Ziipao, TISS, Guwahati</li></ul>
12:55-13:15 (20 min)	Open Discussion and Closing remarks of the Chair Rapporteur: Ms. Abilo Humotse, UNDP Mr. Anirudh Menon, Tata Trusts

Time (Hrs)	Session
13:15-14:00 (45 min)	Lunch
<b>14:00-15:30 (90 min)</b>	<b>Technical Session 7: Addressing Inequality and Exclusion in the North East</b>
14:00-14:10 (10 min)	Chair: Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director and Head, South and South-West Asia (SSWA) Office, UNESCAP, New Delhi
14:10-15:10 (60 min)	<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Yogesh Suri, Senior Adviser (Governance &amp; Research), NITI Aayog</li> <li>• Ms. Lakhimi Baruah, Managing Director, Konoklota Mahila Urban Cooperative Bank (KMUCB), Jorhat</li> <li>• Ms. Hasina Kharbhih, Impulse NGO Network, Shillong, Meghalaya</li> <li>• Ms. Shireen Vakil, Policy and Advocacy Head, Tata Trusts</li> <li>• Ms. Patricia Mukhim, Editor, Shillong Times, Meghalaya</li> <li>• Dr. Walter Fernandes, North East Social Research Centre (NESRC), Guwahati</li> </ul>
15:10-15:30 (20 min)	<p>Open Discussion and Closing remarks of the Chair</p> <p>Rapporteur: Mr. Anshul Bisen, NITI Aayog Ms. Mallika Adhikari, UNDP</p>
15:30-15:45 (15 min)	Tea/Coffee
<b>15:45-17:00 (75 min)</b>	<b>Final Session: Way Forward and Valedictory</b>
15:45-15:50 (5 min)	Chair: Shri K. Moses Chalai, Secretary, North Eastern Council
15:50-16:30 (40 min)	<p>Presentation on Takeaways from the Conclave – Sanyukta Samaddar, Adviser, NITI Aayog</p> <p>Way Forward in NE States &amp; Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shri Sentiyanger Imchen, Additional Chief Secretary &amp; Development Commissioner, Govt. of Nagaland</li> <li>• Shri V. B. Pathak, Additional Chief Secretary, Planning and Development, Govt. of Sikkim</li> <li>• Shri Samir Kumar Sinha, Principal Secretary, Health &amp; Family Welfare Department, Government of Assam</li> <li>• Shri Himanshu Gupta, Secretary, Planning, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh</li> <li>• Dr. Vijay Kumar D, Commissioner &amp; Secretary, Planning Dept. Govt. of Meghalaya</li> <li>• Ms. Nidhi Kesarwani, Commissioner, Planning, Manipur</li> <li>• Dr. C. Vanlalramsanga, Secretary, Planning and Programme Implementation, Govt. of Mizoram</li> <li>• Shri Apurba Roy, Special Secretary, Planning, Govt. of Tripura</li> </ul>

Time (Hrs)	Session
16:30 -16:50 (20 min)	Valedictory Address: • Ms. Shoko Noda, Resident Representative, UNDP India
16:50 -17:00 (10 min)	Wrap-up by Chair Vote of Thanks: Shri Rajiv Bora, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Govt. of Assam Rapporteur: Ms. Arundhati Yadav, UNDP Mr. Amar Chanchal, Tata Trusts

## Expected Results/Outcomes:

**In the short run:** The aim of the conclave is to bring different stakeholders on a common platform and instil momentum into interventions focused on the SDGs in terms of assessing the current status and the gaps compared to the rest of the country as well as in each State vis-à-vis others in the region and explore ways and means to bridge those gaps. In concrete terms following results are targeted:

- Clear articulation of SDG implementation strategies by the States and the region including those pertaining to various sectors
- Identification of practical measures to realise the principle of 'Leaving No One Behind'
- Adopt monitoring frameworks at State and sub-State levels along with the State/District Indicator Frameworks
- Clarity regarding refocusing of various flagship and other programmes to achieving relevant SDG targets including addressing interconnectedness among related projects/programmes
- Identification of State-specific as well as regional priorities in shape of agreed action plans.
- Development of synergy among various stakeholders: central ministries, state governments, North Eastern Council (NEC), public and private sector organisations, civil society organisations (CSOs) and other agencies active in the region.

**In the long run:** The conclave would address certain issues of long-term implication for the development of the region and the achievement of the SDGs. This would include development of infrastructure, both physical (roads, railways, inland waterways and air connectivity) and digital (high speed internet for various digital services). The important stakeholders from Union government, state governments, and support organisations like World Bank, JICA and private players would have the opportunity to deliberate on these issues to come up with possible solutions. The conclave also aims at developing partnerships in terms of commitment from academia, CSOs and other institutions which would support the states in implementation of emerging priorities related to the SDGs.

The conclave would also instil a sense of competition amongst the NE states to improve their rankings in the SDG India Index being released by NITI Aayog. The SDG Roadmaps/ Action Plans crystallized by the NE States during the Conclave will provide a powerful fillip to SDG implementation and performance. Based on the State Indicator Framework, the progress of the states would be periodically tracked for necessary course correction and improved performance.

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### Organising Partners:

 <p>नीति आयोग National Institution for Transforming India</p> <p>NITI AAYOG Government of India</p>	 <p>North Eastern Council Government of India</p> <p>NORTH EAST COUNCIL Government of India</p>	<p>TATA TRUSTS</p> <p>TATA TRUSTS</p>	 <p>GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM</p> <p>GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM</p>
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